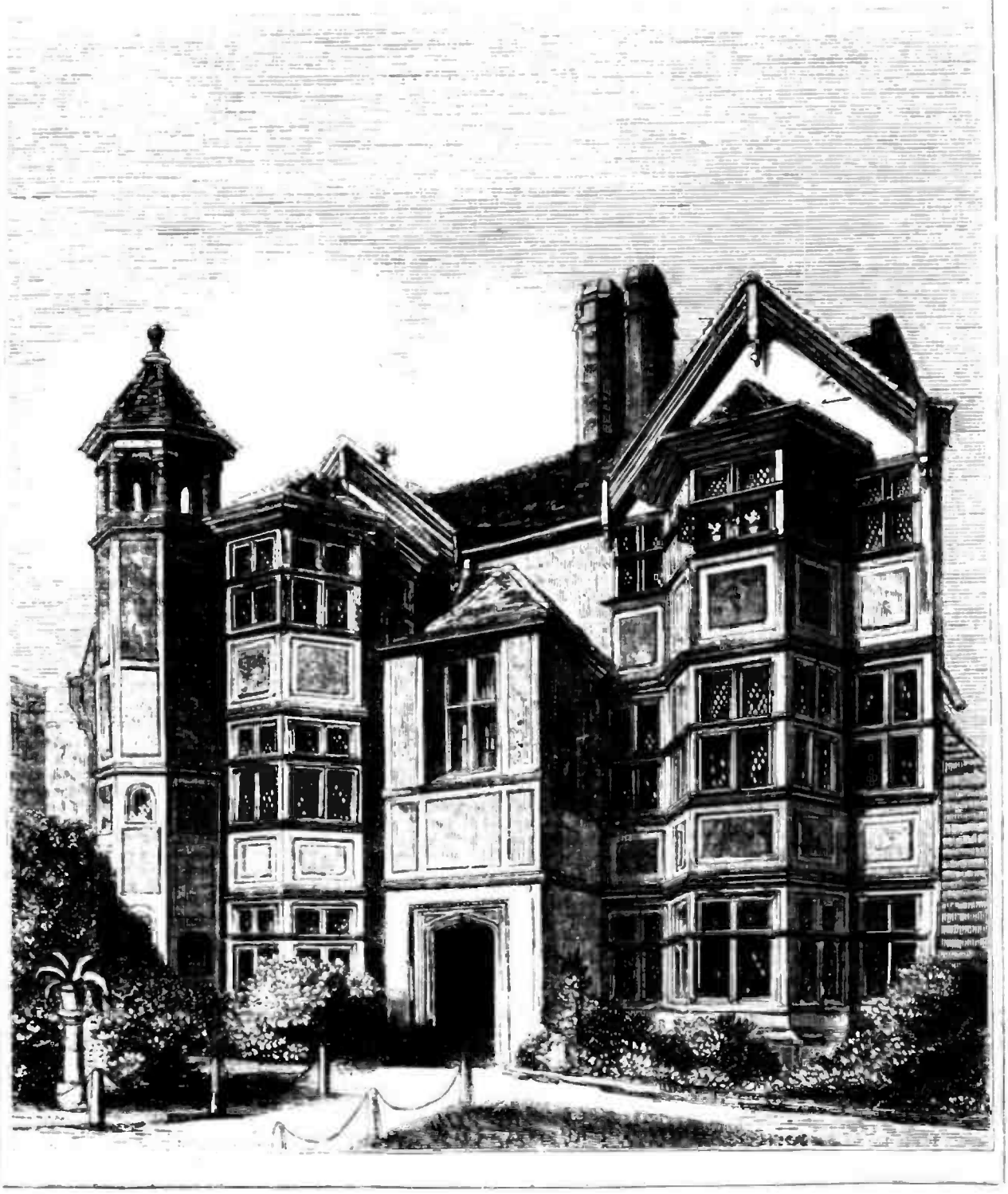
EASTGATE HOUSE, ROCHESTER.



EASTGATE HOUSE, ROCHESTER, KENT.

Eastgate House is one of the most picturesque objects in the town of Rochester. It is situated in the high street, and overlooks the Dock-yard and Town of Chatham. The date of its erection is the latter end of the 16th century. It was built by Peter Buck, of Rochester, gentleman, clerk to the "Queenes Maiesties Navye." His arms with those of his two wives are in the decorated ceilings in the interior. The house, which is of timber frame-work, has undergone considerable alteration in its exterior. The upper part of the porch is much altered. The front had originally another prospect tower on the right corresponding with the one seen on the left. This latter tower is restored in the view to its ancient appearance. The small columns seen in the upper story remain, although externally they are covered with plaster.

The interior is nearly in its original state. There is one extremely handsome fire-place, and some richly decorated plaster ceilings. The house is now occupied as a ladies' school.

C. J. R.

ALTERATION IN COVENT GARDEN THEATRE.

It is proposed wholly to take down the audience part of the theatre, from the ceiling to the top of the walls under the pit, and including the walls under the galleries and boxes throughout their whole height, and to rebuild the latter so as to increase the size of the pit and the area between the fronts of the boxes, and from the fronts of the galleries to the proscenium. Two new stone staircases will be formed from the level of the corridor behind the ground or pit tier of boxes, to the height of the highest boxes. The floor of the pit-tier corridor will be made wholly fire-proof, and communicating with the pit itself, as well as with the pit-tier boxes on one side, and with the ground level saloon by means of a double flight of stone stairs. The grand staircase from Bow-street, and the royal and other private-box staircases on the other side of the house will remain, these being capable of assisting in the relief of the audience part of the house at all times.

Mr. Benedict Albano has the direction of the alterations.

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